



Ash Wednesday
17 February 2021

Reverend Professor Walter Maier III
Preacher and Celebrant

Divine Service
Setting Five

Stand

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Kneel

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| P O Lord, | C have mercy. |
| P O Christ, | C have mercy. |
| P O Lord, | C have mercy. |
| P O Christ, | |
| C hear us. | |
| P God the Father in heaven, | |
| C have mercy. | |
| P God the Son, Redeemer of the world, | |
| C have mercy. | |
| P God the Holy Spirit, | |
| C have mercy. | |
| P Be gracious to us. | |
| C Spare us, good Lord. | |
| P Be gracious to us. | |
| C Help us, good Lord. | |
| P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; | |
| by Your holy nativity; | |
| by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; | |
| by Your agony and bloody sweat; | |
| by Your cross and passion; | |

by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely,
the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in our need of prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to

dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(remain kneeling)

Confession

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . . .

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading – Joel 2:12–19

Choral Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Stand

Holy Gospel – Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Following the Gospel:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Choral Offertory “Create in Me a New Heart”

Allan Mahnke

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Let what you will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.

Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If there are spiritual concerns that may affect your communing here, please speak to President Rast or the Dean of the Chapel after the service.

Stand

Service of the Sacrament – LSB 216

Preface

Lord’s Prayer

Verba

Sanctus – LSB 960 “Isaiah, Mighty Seer”

Pax Domini

The congregation is seated for the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei – LSB 434 “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Distribution Hymns

607 “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

628 “Your Table I Approach”

Stand

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction – LSB 218

Concerning the Imposition of Ashes

A contemporary Lutheran appropriation of the Imposition of Ashes begins with the twofold biblical understanding of ashes as a sign of our mortality and as a sign of our repentance. The traditional formula, “*Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return,*” paraphrases the words of God in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:19). By receiving the ashes, the worshiper acknowledges that God’s judgment against our sin is right and just. But the ashes are also made in the sign of the cross—the very instrument by which our Lord—standing in our place—took upon himself the punishment for our sin. Thus, the cross of ashes serves to remind us that we are sinners and that Christ died for us sinners. (Drawn from the Commission on Worship supplement insert to the *Reporter*, February 2005 © The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Used by permission.)

While congregations have weighed various options for imposing ashes during the pandemic, we have chosen not to do so this year. Recognizing that the practice is an adiaphoron, we understand that we are free to conduct this ceremony as well as to omit it for a time. Whether the practice is observed or not, we enter the season in humble repentance and seek the mercy of God.